

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4992

To provide for Medicare reimbursement for health care services provided to Medicare-eligible veterans in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2006

Mrs. KELLY (for herself and Mr. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for Medicare reimbursement for health care services provided to Medicare-eligible veterans in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Medicare As-
5 sistance Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE SUBVENTION FOR**
2 **VETERANS.**

3 Section 1862 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1395y) is amended by adding at the end the following new
5 subsection:

6 “(n) MEDICARE SUBVENTION FOR VETERANS.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURE FOR RE-
8 IMBURSEMENT.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The administering
10 Secretaries shall establish a procedure under
11 which the Secretary shall reimburse the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs, from the trust
13 funds, for medicare health care services fur-
14 nished to medicare-eligible veterans.

15 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Under the proce-
16 dure established under subparagraph (A)—

17 “(i) the administering Secretaries
18 shall certify that any Department of Vet-
19 erans Affairs medical facility that fur-
20 nishes medicare health care services for
21 which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is
22 reimbursed under this subsection has suffi-
23 cient—

24 “(I) resources and expertise to
25 provide the health care benefits re-
26 quired to be provided to individuals

1 entitled to benefits under part A or
2 enrolled under part B; and

3 “(II) information and billing sys-
4 tems in place to ensure accurate and
5 timely submission of claims for health
6 care benefits to the Secretary;

7 “(ii) the Secretary shall have access to
8 all data of the Department of Veterans Af-
9 fairs that the Secretary determines is nec-
10 essary to verify accuracy in billing and
11 claims information; and

12 “(iii) the Secretary shall waive re-
13 quirements for conditions of participation
14 otherwise applicable to a provider of serv-
15 ices or a supplier under this title in the
16 case of a Department of Veterans Affairs
17 medical facility consistent with paragraph
18 (3).

19 “(C) RESTRICTION ON NEW OR EXPANDED
20 FACILITIES.—No new Veterans Affairs medical
21 facilities may be built or expanded with funds
22 received under this subsection.

23 “(2) COST-SHARING.—The amount of reim-
24 bursement to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
25 medicare health care services shall be reduced by

1 amounts attributable to applicable deductible, coin-
2 surance, and cost-sharing requirements under this
3 title.

4 “(3) MEDICARE REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(A) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall waive
6 any requirements referred to in paragraph
7 (1)(B)(iii) (relating to requirements for condi-
8 tions of participation) in the case of a Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs medical facility, or ap-
10 prove equivalent or alternative ways of meeting
11 such a requirement, but only if such waiver or
12 approval—

13 “(i) reflects the unique status of the
14 Department of Veterans Affairs as an
15 agency of the Federal Government; and

16 “(ii) is necessary to provide (or to im-
17 prove the efficiency of providing) for reim-
18 bursement for medicare health care serv-
19 ices under this subsection.

20 “(B) WAIVER OF PROHIBITION ON PAY-
21 MENTS TO FEDERAL PROVIDERS OF SERV-
22 ICES.—The prohibition of payments to Federal
23 providers of services under sections 1814(c) and
24 1835(d), and paragraphs (2) and (3) of sub-
25 section (a), shall not apply.

1 “(4) VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Vet-
3 erans Affairs shall establish procedures for de-
4 termining whether an individual is a medicare-
5 eligible veteran.

6 “(B) RESTRICTION.—No reimbursement
7 shall be made under this subsection for any
8 medicare health care service provided to an in-
9 dividual unless the individual has been deter-
10 mined to be a medicare-eligible veteran pursu-
11 ant to the procedures established under sub-
12 paragraph (A).

13 “(5) DATA REQUIREMENTS.—Reimbursements
14 for medicare health care services furnished to medi-
15 care-eligible veterans may not be made until such
16 time as the administering Secretaries certify to Con-
17 gress that the—

18 “(A) cost accounting and related trans-
19 action systems of the Veterans Health Adminis-
20 tration provide cost information and encounter
21 data regarding health care delivered at each
22 Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility
23 on an inpatient and outpatient basis; and

1 “(B) cost information and encounter data
2 provided by such systems is accurate, reliable,
3 and consistent across all facilities.

4 “(6) PAYMENTS BASED ON REGULAR MEDICARE
5 PAYMENT RATES.—

6 “(A) AMOUNT.—Subject to the succeeding
7 provisions of this paragraph, the Secretary shall
8 reimburse the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
9 health care benefits provided to medicare-eligible
10 veterans at a rate equal to 100 percent of
11 the amounts that otherwise would be payable
12 under this title on a noncapitated basis for such
13 service if the Department of Veterans Affairs
14 medical facility were a provider of services, were
15 participating in the medicare program, and im-
16 posed charges for such service.

17 “(B) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—
18 In computing the amount of payment under
19 subparagraph (A), the following amounts shall
20 be excluded:

21 “(i) DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOS-
22 PITAL ADJUSTMENT.—Any amount attrib-
23 utable to an adjustment under section
24 1886(d)(5)(F).

1 “(ii) DIRECT GRADUATE MEDICAL
2 EDUCATION PAYMENTS.—Any amount at-
3 tributable to a payment under section
4 1886(h).

5 “(iii) INDIRECT MEDICAL EDUCATION
6 ADJUSTMENT.—Any amount attributable
7 to the adjustment under section
8 1886(d)(5)(B).

9 “(iv) PERCENTAGE OF CAPITAL PAY-
10 MENTS.—67 percent of any amounts at-
11 tributable to payments for capital-related
12 costs under medicare payment policies
13 under section 1886(g).

14 “(C) PERIODIC PAYMENTS FROM MEDI-
15 CARE TRUST FUNDS.—Payments under this
16 paragraph shall be made—

17 “(i) on a periodic basis consistent
18 with the periodicity of payments under this
19 title; and

20 “(ii) in appropriate part, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary, from the trust
22 funds.

23 “(7) CREDITING OF PAYMENTS.—Any payment
24 shall be deposited in the Department of Veterans Af-

1 fairs Medical Care Collections Fund established
2 under section 1729A of title 38, United States Code.

3 “(8) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
4 this subsection shall be construed—

5 “(A) as prohibiting the Inspector General
6 of the Department of Health and Human Serv-
7 ices from investigating any matters regarding
8 the expenditure of funds under this subsection,
9 including compliance with the provisions of this
10 title and all other relevant laws; or

11 “(B) as adding or requiring additional cri-
12 teria for eligibility for health care benefits fur-
13 nished to veterans by the Secretary of Veterans
14 Affairs, as established under chapter 17 of title
15 38, United States Code.

16 “(9) EVALUATION AND REPORTS.—The admin-
17 istering Secretaries shall conduct ongoing evalua-
18 tions of the procedure established under this sub-
19 section, and shall submit periodic reports to Con-
20 gress on—

21 “(A) any savings or costs to the medicare
22 program by reason of this subsection; and

23 “(B) effects of this subsection on access to
24 care by medicare-eligible veterans.

25 “(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:—

1 “(A) ADMINISTERING SECRETARIES.—The
2 term ‘administering Secretaries’ means the Sec-
3 retary and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 acting jointly.

5 “(B) MEDICARE HEALTH CARE SERV-
6 ICES.—The term ‘medicare health care services’
7 means items or services covered under part A
8 or B of this title.

9 “(C) MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The
10 term ‘medicare-eligible veteran’ means an indi-
11 vidual who—

12 “(i) is a veteran (as defined in section
13 101(2) of title 38, United States Code)
14 who is eligible for care and services under
15 section 1705(a) of title 38, United States
16 Code;

17 “(ii) has attained age 65;

18 “(iii) is entitled to, or enrolled for,
19 benefits under part A of this title; and

20 “(iv) is enrolled for benefits under
21 part B of this title.

22 “(D) TRUST FUNDS.—The term ‘trust
23 funds’ means the Federal Hospital Insurance
24 Trust Fund established in section 1817 and the

1 Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance
2 Trust Fund established in section 1841.

3 “(E) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
4 MEDICAL FACILITY.—The term ‘Department of
5 Veterans Affairs medical facility’ means a med-
6 ical facility as defined in section 8101(3) of title
7 38, United States Code alone or in conjunction
8 with other facilities under the jurisdiction of the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.”.

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